

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 HEW-04 OES-06 DHA-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 INT-05 PRS-01 PA-01 L-03 SP-02 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3209

INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MONTEVIDEO 0597

USIA FOR: ILA, IOP/M

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FOR ARA FROM WHITE 3

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, OEXC, TGEN, OAS

SUBJ: OAS EIGHTH CIECC MEETING

SUMMARY: EIGHTH CIECC MEETING ENDED FEBRUARY 11 AFTER WEEK-LONG DELIBERATIONS CHARACTERIZED BY MORE PRAGMATISM THAN IN PREVIOUS MEETINGS. CONCERN FOR BUDGETARY IMPACT OF PROGRAMS AND NEW PROJECTS IS A FRESH ELEMENT IN CIECC AND MORE IN TUNE WITH US PREOCCUPATIONS. US HEAD OF DELEGATION'S STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS, ON HEELS OF OPENING SPEECH OF GOU MINISTER OF EDUCATION, MAINTAINED FOCUS OF DELEGATES AND LOCAL PUBLIC ON LINKAGE BETWEEN HUMAN FREEDOMS AND PROGRESS IN EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE. GOU EFFORT TO PARLAY MEETING INTO ADOPTING A RESOUNDING "DECLARATION OF MONTEVIDEO" WAS SIDETRACKED. WELL-QUALIFIED BRAZILIAN CANDIDATE SUPPORTED BY U.S. WON ELECTION AS NEW CIECC CHAIRMAN. U.S. CANDIDATE LOST IN ELECTION FOR VACANCY ON EDUCATION COMMITTEE. MEETING ADOPTED US-INITIATED PROPOSALS FOR NATURE PROTECTION AND WILDLIFE PRESERVATION AND FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

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OF WORKS OF ART BY MEMBER STATES TO NEW OAS HEADQUARTERS BUILDING IN WASHINGTON. U.S. WAS AGAIN URGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO SPECIAL CULTURAL FUND IN A SEPARATE RESOLUTION. END SUMMARY

1. THE EIGHT MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE (CIECC) FOCUSED MORE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS OF THE ORGANIZATION THAN ON STRIKING NEW

PROGRAM INITIATIVES. IN GENERAL, DELEGATIONS SEEM TO BE TAKING A MORE PRACTICAL APPROACH TO ACCOMPLISHING THE COUNCIL'S OBJECTIVES THAN HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN THE CASE. THEY FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS OF PROPOSED NEW PROJECTS, MUCH MORE IN LINE WITH THE U.S. HAS CONSISTENTLY TAKEN IN ALL INTER-AMERICAN MEETINGS. CIECC ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS FROM ALL THE SUB-COMMITTEES WHICH ADDRESSED THE NEED FOR GREATER COORDINATION AMONG THE PROJECTS WITHIN COUNTRIES AND AMONG COUNTRIES. THIS, TOO, REPRESENTS A DIFFERENT ATTITUDE AMONG THE GOVERNMENTS ABOUT THE BENEFIT WHICH CAN BE DERIVED FROM THE POOLING AND SHARING OF RESOURCES INSTEAD OF THE FRAGMENTATION WHICH HAS OCCURRED IN CIECC PROJECTS.

2. U.S. HEAD OF DELEGATION'S STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS WAS APPROVINGLY RECEIVED IN CIECC MEETING AND FULLY REPORTED IN LOCAL PRESS. A NUMBER OF DELEGATES PRIVATELY CONGRATULATED U.S. DELEGATION FOR MAKING WHAT PERUVIAN REP. DESCRIBED AS "MOST IMPORTANT STATEMENT" OF ENTIRE MEETING. LOCAL NEWSMEN WERE ENTHUSIASTIC WITH OPPORTUNITY TO REPLAY THEME OF HUMAN RIGHTS FIRST RAISED BY GOU MINISTER OF EDUCATION AT OPENING OF CIECC MEETING. STATEMENT HAS BEEN GIVEN FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE ON MOST PRESTIGIOUS DAILY, "EL DIA", AND TEXT ITSELF WAS EVEN PRINTED ON EDITORIAL PAGE OF PRO-MILITARY "LA MANANA", BESIDES BEING COVERED IN OTHER DAILIES AND ON RADIO/TV.

3. A FORMER MINISTER AND UNSUCCESSFUL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, WILSON FERRERIA ALDUNATE, SENT COPIES OF STATEMENT ATTACKING GOU'S ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO HEADS OF DELEGATIONS. JUDGING BY ITS CONTENTS, STATEMENT IS IDENTICAL TO FERRERIA'S TESTIMONY TO CONFIDENTIAL

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U.S. CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE IN 1976. AMONG FERRERIA'S CLAIMS ARE THE FOLLOWING: (A) GOU HAS APPROXIMATELY 5,00 TO 6,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS; (V): 1975 DECREE AUTHORIZES MAIL INSPECTION; (C) MORE THAN 5,000 TELEPHONES ARE TAPPED; (D) MANY PRISONERS HAVE BEEN TORTURED IN ADDITION TO 29 CASES DOCUMENTED BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. CONCLUDING PARAGRAPHS ATTACH U.S. EMBASSY FOR HAVING AIDED AND ABETTED THE URUGUAYAN "APPARATUS OF REPRESSION" AND FOR ACTING AS GOU'S "PUBLIC RELATIONS AGENT".

4. A POTENTIALLY DAMAGING URUGUAYAN INITIATIVE IN THE FORM OF "THE RESOLUTION OF MONTEVIDEO" WAS SIDE-TRACKED WITH OUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AND REFERRED TO AN ALREADY ESTABLISHED AD HOC COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH REVIEWING ALL CIECC PROGRAMS. URUGUAY'S PROPOSAL, A POORLY DRAFTED HODGE-PODGE OF MEASURES WITH A GRANDIOSE TITLE CAUSED EMBARRASSMENT TO TO OTHER DELEGATIONS BECAUSE IT WAS FLOATED BY THE CONFERENCE HOST. FORTUNATELY, THE URUGUAYAN DELEGATE MADE SUCH AN AGGRESSIVE AND ABRASIVE PRESENTATION THAT HE GAVE OTHER DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA, MEXICO, PERU AND THE U.S. A

FACE-SAVING WAY OUT.

5. TO FILL THE THREE VACANCIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE (CIE) CIECC ELECTED THE CANDIDATES FROM GUATEMALA, ARGENTINA AND VENEZUELA. THE U.S. CANDIDATE WAS NOT ELECTED. THE U.S. HAD RECEIVED ASSURANCES OF SIXTEEN VOTES, TWO MORE THAN REQUIRED FOR ELECTION. AT THE LAST MINUTE COSTA RICA INFORMED U.S. IT COULD NOT SUPPORT US. BARBADOS DID NOT MAKE IT TO THE SESSION IN TIME TO VOTE. AND TWO DELEGATES SIMPLY DECEIVED US. THE VOTING IS SECRET AND IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO STATE WITH ANY CERTAINTY WHAT OCCURRED. IN OTHER ELECTIONS, CANDIDATES FROM COLOMBIA, CHILE, COSTA RICA, AND JAMAICA WON PLACES ON THE INTER-AMERICAN CULTURAL COMMITTEE (CIDE), WHILE THOSE FROM BRAZIL, THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, AND PERU WERE ELECTED FOR THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (CICYT).

6. THE COUNCIL ELECTED LINDOLPHO DE CARVALHO DIAS CHAIRMAN OF
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CEPCIECC FOR A YEAR'S TERM. THE BRAZILIAN TITULAR REPRESENTATIVE TO CEPCIECC, HE DEFEATED EDUARDO CASTILLO ARRIOLA, THE GUATEMALAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE OAS, BY AN OVERWHELMING 18-5. RARELY DOES AN OAS COUNCIL ELECT A CHAIRMAN WHO IS AN OUTSTANDING TECHNICAL EXPERT RATHER THAN A POLITICIAN. THIS ELECTION REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT EFFORT BY CIECC TO ENSURE PROFESSIONAL OVERSIGHT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MONTEVIDEO 0597

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OF ITS PROGRAMS.

7. TH FIRST TWO DAYS OF CIECC WERE DEVOTED TO A "ROUND TABLE" DISCUSSION ON THE INTEGRATION OF EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES. VARIOUS DELEGATIONS DELINEATED THEIR COUNTRIES' PROGRAMS IN EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE. THEY MADE GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE ROLE OF THESE FIELDS IN DEVELOPMENT BUT OFFERED NO FORMULA FOR AN OPTIMUM BALANCE AMONG THEM. THE DELEGATES CONSISTENTLY EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN INDIGENOUS INSTITUTIONS AND AVOID DEPENDENCE ON EXTERNAL INFLUENCES. USDEL INTERVENTION STRESSED THE DIFFICULTY INVOLVED IN COORDINATING EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS AS THEY INFLUENCE THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS, AND NOTED THE NEED TO EXAMINE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMIC GROWTH. WHILE SEVERAL SPEECHES CONTAINED SUBSTANTIVE MERIT, REGRETTABLY FEW ADDRESSED THE ROLE OF THE OAS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THEIR PLANS.

8. THE GENERAL COMMITTEE DEALT WITH INSTITUTIONAL AND BUDGET
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MATTERS. IT ADOPTED U.S.-INITIATED MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE MORE RATIONAL PLANNING OF THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET AND A SPEEDIER IMPLEMENTATION RATE FOR THE MAR DEL PLATA ACCOUNT. THE STATUTES OF CIECC AND RULES OF PROCEDURE OF CIECC AND CEP CIECC (PERMANENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF CIECC) WERE SLIGHTLY MODIFIED TO BRING THEM MORE IN LINE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND NEEDS.

9. IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CIECC ADOPTED A RESOLUTION INITIATED BY THE U.S. ON THE FORMULATION OF PROGRAMS IN THE AREA OF NATURE PROTECTION AND WILDLIFE PRESERVATION. CO-SPONSORED BY PERU, ECUADOR, BRAZIL, CHILE, AND VENEZUELA, IT FOLLOWS AN EARLIER INITIATIVE BY THE U.S. AT THE LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING IN SANTIAGO (RESOLUTION 218). INSTEAD OF CONVENING AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, WHICH WAS SUGGESTED AT THAT TIME, THE RESOLUTION CALLS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE SECRETARIAT TO COUNTRIES REQUESTING IT, AND A LIMITED NUMBER OF SMALL, TECHNICAL MEETINGS TO WORK OUT THE KINDS OF COOPERATIVE MEASURES CALLED FOR IN THE SANTIAGO RESOLUTION. CIECC ALSO APPROVED A STUDY TO DEVELOP A SEISMOLOGICAL NETWORK FOR CENTRAL AMERICA

AND PANAMA.

10. COMMITTEE III - CULTURE. THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE ADOPTED A RESOLUTION, THE U.S. ABSTAINING, URGING MEMBER STATES TO INCREASE THEIR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SPECIAL CULTURAL FUND (SCF) AND REITERATING THE CIECC'S APPEAL TO THE U.S. TO "CONSIDER ITS PARTICIPATION." IT ALSO MAKES MENTION OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S MESSAGE TO THE CIECC WITHOUT QUOTING FROM IT AS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED. U.S. REP. IN COMMITTEE MADE BRIEF COMMENT ON RESOLUTION UNDERSCORING EXTENT OF U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS TO CIECC'S OTHER FUNDS AND THE WIDELY FELT DESIRABILITY OF ECONOMIZING ON TRAVEL AND CONFERENCE EXPENSES WHICH COULD LEAD TO SAVINGS FOR POSSIBLE USE IN SCF. ONLY OTHER SIGNIFICANT RESOLUTION ADOPTED IN COMMITTEE WAS RECOMMENDATION TO OAS MEMBER STATES TO CONTRIBUTE WORKS OF ART FOR THE PROPOSED NEW OAS HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON.
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11. THE DEMOCRACIES COMBINED SUCCESSFULLY TO INSURE THE CHOICE OF THE COSTA RICAN MINISTER OF EDUCATION TO GIVE THE CLOSING STATEMENT IN THE NAME OF ALL THE DELEGATIONS. HIS INTELLIGENT AND WELL-DELIVERED SPEECH WAS TUDDERED WITH REFERENCE TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC VALUES. THE MINISTER WAS LESS EFFUSIVE THAN THE LATIN NORM IN THE REQUIRED PRAISE OF THE HOST GOVERNMENT.

12. ALSO AT THE CLOSING SESSION, THE URUGUAYAN MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SPEAKING AS CHAIRMAN OF CIECC, REFERRED TO HUMAN RIGHTS AS HE HAD AT THE INAUGURAL SESSION. THIS TIME IT WAS WITH REFERENCE TO THE ROLE WHICH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE PLAYED FOR THE LAST QUARTER CENTURY IN SUPPORTING NATIONAL EFFORTS TO COMBAT DISEASE, SUPPRESS COLONIALISM, UNIVERSALIZE THE PRINCIPLE OF SELFDETERMINATION, PROVIDE EDUCATION FOR ALL, AND "GUARANTEE THE ENFORCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS."
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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TAGS: OCON, OEXC, TGEN, OAS
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